

Study Guide
Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
for the
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Term 2 | July 25 – August 4, 2016

CS 422: Theological Heritage 4: Wesleyan Movement
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Course Description

This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theology of the Methodist movement. Utilizing categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will appropriate the Wesleyan heritage.

Objectives

1. Understand and reflect on the movements, major figures, and events that led to the eighteenth century revivals, especially the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley.
2. Understand and articulate the vision of holiness and the theology of grace as it shaped the Wesleys, and the structures of the Methodist movement.
3. Identify and discuss significant theological and historical developments in American Methodism, including ordination and episcopacy.
4. Reflect theologically on their Wesleyan heritage and identity.

Required Texts

- Richard P. Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Second edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.
- Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. *American Methodism: A Compact History*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.
- Maddox, Randy L. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1994.

Required Additional Text

- John H. Wigger, *American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

OR (please see Assignments on which of these texts you should read)

- Richard S. Newman, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Online Resource

- General Board of Global Ministries. “John Wesley Sermons.” <http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/John-Wesley-Sermons>. 2015.
Please note that only a few sermons are listed on this page, but there are links to title and numerical indices of 141 different published sermons. Please read the following sermons: “Free Grace,” “The Scripture Way of Salvation,” “On Working Out Our Own Salvation,” “Witness of the Spirit, II,” and “The Danger of Riches,” plus one other sermon. See Assignments below for more information.

Optional Book Recommended by GBHEM

- Wigger, John H. *Taking Heaven by Storm: Methodism and the Rise of Popular Christianity in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Assignments Due June 1:

Wesley’s Standard Sermons in Historical Context

Wesley’s Standard Sermons were long used by Methodists as authoritative expositions of their faith. Even today, The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline (2012) (page 75, ¶104, section 3) lists these sermons as a part of the church’s doctrinal standards. Students are to write a 6 page paper that briefly summarizes any of the following sermons and any other, non-assigned, John Wesley sermon of the student’s choosing. Possible sermons to choose from include: “Free Grace,” “The Scripture Way of Salvation,” “On Working Out Our Own Salvation,” “Witness of the Spirit, II,” and “The Danger of Riches.”

The summary of the sermons should be no more than two pages long for each sermon (four pages total). The paper should place each sermon in its historical context and in the context of Wesley’s life and theological development.

Students will be best prepared to write this paper after reading Heitzenrater and Maddox and consulting other research sources that illumine Wesley’s life, times, and theological development.

Review of Francis Asbury/Richard Allen Biography

The purpose of this assignment is to enable students to gain an understanding of an important early figure in American Methodism, how that individual adapted the Methodist tradition to his particular context and shaped the broader American Methodist tradition by reading a recent scholarly biography. Half of the class will read Wigger’s *American Saint* and half will read Newman’s *Freedom’s Prophet*. In order to divide the class in two students born in January-June are asked to read Wigger’s *American Saint*. Students born July-December are asked to read Newman’s *Freedom’s Prophet*.

Students are to write a 4 page paper that reviews the selected text by providing a concise summary of the most relevant portions of the work in a way that would be intelligible to a person who had not read the book, such as an interested lay person with no knowledge of Methodist

history. The paper should then provide a critical assessment of the book in question. In addition, we will discuss these books when we meet in July.

Assignments Due the First Day of Class:

Wesleyan Movement Application Journal and Synthesis

Students are asked to keep a journal of notes on the readings for this course and reflecting how insights from the readings may be applied to different aspects of your ministry.

Students are to write a 4 page synthesis of your journal entries that connects your reading to the practice of your ministry. For example, you might write in your paper about ways that the theology you read in John Wesley's sermons informed your preaching. You might share how the reading gave you deeper insight into the historic origins of an important practice of your congregation.

Methodist History Research Paper

Students are to write a 6 page research paper about an aspect of United Methodist history of interest to the student. Students will be best prepared to write this paper after reading Heitzenrater, the biography, and *American Methodism: A Compact History*.

This paper is an opportunity for students to engage with a part of the tradition that is introduced in the readings on a deeper level. Since students will have already written a paper about John Wesley, either Francis Asbury or Richard Allen, a different topic should be selected. Other than that, this is a chance to engage your curiosity. For example, you may explore the history of the United Methodist tradition in your region, in a different part of the world, or the history of a particular type of United Methodist tradition (e.g. healing ministries, education, worship styles).

The topic of the paper must be approved by the instructor by email before **June 1**.

Please note this date. It is for your benefit because I can then provide ideas for additional resources, beyond the assigned readings, to help you in your research. Paper topics not received by this date will negatively affect the student's grade on this paper.

Grading

Good papers will show evidence that the student both read and understood the texts assigned, and for the research paper did research beyond the assigned texts. Students are strongly advised to use online source material with extreme caution, as most online sources do not meet scholarly standards. While high-quality scholarship is available online, and the internet can be a powerful research tool, Googling is not a synonym for research. Lack of research or use of poor source material will adversely affect a student's grade.

Papers will be evaluated by how well students address the elements of the assignments mentioned above, clarity of writing, accuracy, consistency, the ability to make a coherent argument, and fidelity to proper academic standards.

Please submit all papers in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. Please add a page number in the footer of all pages. Papers should be the length assigned, plus or minus one-half page, not including bibliography, typed and double-spaced. Proper citation of all sources using Turabian footnotes-bibliography style is expected. Any quotation of three words in length or greater must be footnoted. (Please note that this style is not the same as the Turabian style installed in the current version of Microsoft Word.) Failure to meet these formatting requirements will adversely affect a grade.

The course grade will be based on the instructor's evaluation of the following assignments, weighted as follows:

Wesley Standard Sermons Paper	30%
Asbury/Allen Biography Review	15%
Journal Synthesis	15%
Research Paper	30%
Class participation	10%